

CLAIMS

1. Crosslinker-free preparations obtainable by adding precipitants to aqueous solutions and/or homogenized suspensions of chitosans and then drying the chitosans.
- 5 2. A process for the production of crosslinker-free preparations, characterized in that precipitants are added to aqueous solutions and/or homogenized suspensions of chitosans and the chitosans are then dried.
3. A process as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that drying is carried out by freeze drying.
- 10 4. A process as claimed in claim 2 and/or 3, characterized in that 0.1 to 15% by weight aqueous solutions and/or homogenized suspensions of chitosans are used.
5. A process as claimed in at least one of claims 2 to 4, characterized in that the aqueous solutions and/or homogenized suspensions of chitosans have a pH value of 1 to 7.5.
- 15 6. A process as claimed in at least one of claims 2 to 5, characterized in that the viscosity of the aqueous solutions and/or homogenized suspensions of chitosans is in the range from 1,000 to 100,000 mPas.
7. A process as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the viscosity of the aqueous solutions and/or homogenized suspensions of chitosans is in the range from 10,000 to 40,000 mPas.
- 20 8. A process as claimed in at least one of claims 2 to 7, characterized in that cationically derivatized chitosans are used as the chitosans.
9. A process as claimed in at least one of claims 2 to 8, characterized in that the precipitants used are selected from the group consisting of aqueous solutions of hydrogen carbonates, carbonates, hydrogen phosphates and hydroxides of the alkali and alkaline earth metals, ammonia and organic nitrogen bases.
- 25 10. A process as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that an aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate solution is used as the precipitant.

WO 01/04207

28

PCT/EP00/06162

11. A process as claimed in at least one of claims 2 to 10, characterized in that the pH of the precipitated chitosans is between 5.0 and 14.
12. A process as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that auxiliaries and additives are added to the aqueous solutions and/or homogenized suspensions before or at the same time as the precipitant.
- 5 13. A process as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the crosslinker-free preparations are charged with auxiliaries and additives after drying.
- 10 14. A process as claimed in claims 12 and/or 13, characterized in that the auxiliaries and additives used are substances selected from the group consisting of polyols, emulsifiers, fibers, dyes, perfume oils, flavors, cosmetic active components, pharmaceutical active principles and food additives.
- 15 15. The use of the crosslinker-free preparations claimed in claim 1 as cosmetic preparations.
16. The use of the crosslinker-free preparations claimed in claim 1 as healing aids and/or medicinal products.
17. The use of the crosslinker-free preparations claimed in claim 1 as foods.
- 20 18. The use of the crosslinker-free preparations claimed in claim 1 as food additives.